



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

Chicago man gets life in prison for role in bizarre murder plot

CHICAGO — A Chicago man was sentenced to life in federal prison yesterday for his role in a bizarre plot involving murder, faked death and a switched body that was jointly investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the Chicago Police Department.

U.S. District Judge Joan Gottschall sentenced James Harry Rand, 49, to life in prison for aiding and abetting in the murder of William White to prevent information from being communicated to a judge.

Rand pleaded guilty last November for his role in the December 2001 murder of William White, a 47-year-old man who was suffocated in an effort to fake the death of Joseph Kalady. Kalady was facing federal prosecution for running a fraudulent immigration document scheme and attempted to fake his own death by killing White and passing the body off as his own. Rand was hired by Kalady to find a person who would not be missed by family or friends and to bring that person to Kalady, knowing that the individual would be murdered. Rand was found guilty of luring White to Kalady's home in December 2001, knowing that Kalady planned to murder the man to avoid prosecution on immigration fraud charges.

Joseph Kalady was on electronic home monitoring, and expected to enter a guilty plea soon, when the government learned he had purportedly died of natural causes in his home on Dec. 2, 2001. The body was removed from the home and taken to be cremated. When federal agents learned of Joseph Kalady's purported death they grew suspicious. They went to view the body at the Illinois Cremation Society and realized the dead man bore little resemblance to Joseph Kalady. The body of William White weighed about 175 pounds, while Joseph Kalady weighed about 450 pounds.

After faking his death, Joseph Kalady had fled to Boston and was captured and charged with killing William White. Kalady died in prison in 2003 before he could be tried for murder.

“Rand lured Mr. White directly into a murder trap,” said Elissa A. Brown, special agent-in-charge for ICE in Chicago. “His role in Kalady’s bizarre murder plot resulted in the death of an innocent man. We are pleased that justice was served in this case.”

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.